

The Romulus News

APRIL 21, 1994 – MAY 4, 1994

"the little paper"

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 20

Timely Tidbits . . .

RHS Invites Public to Heritage Day 1994

This year, the Romulus Historical Society is again participating in the City's annual Michigan Week Festival with a Heritage Day celebration which will be held on Saturday, May 21.

On that day, from 1 to 4 p.m., a tent erected in the Romulus Historic Park will house a display of Romulus High School graduation photos from 1916 to the 1970s. More High School memorabilia – such as varsity and class sweaters and yearbooks beginning with 1942 – will be on display inside the adjacent Romulus Historical Museum. Both the Park and the Museum are located in downtown Romulus next to the Post Office.

Following the Heritage Day display, a community potluck will be held in the Historic Park beginning at 4:30 p.m. Those who would like to participate should bring a dish to pass, their own table setting, and a beverage.

Volunteers Sought To Work in Museum

Currently, the Romulus Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help in the Romulus Historical Museum on Sundays, according to Society president Pearl Varner. If anyone interested in Romulus' history would like to help out, please call 942-2340 any Sunday (except holidays) between 1 and 4 p.m.

Performing and Visual Arts Scholarships Available From DCA

Through the generous funding of the Colina Foundation and the Don and Dolly Smith Foundation, the Downriver Council for the Arts is offering \$250 scholarships to Downriver students in grades three through 12.

The purpose of the scholarship fund is to assist Downriver youths in their pursuit of the creative arts. Scholarship funds can be used for the dramatic arts, visual arts, dance, creative writing, or musical endeavors.

Applications must be received on or before May 18, 1994. For a set of guidelines and application form, please call the Downriver Council for the Arts office: (313) 281-2787.

Top Readers at Barth Earn Special Treat

Taking top honors in Barth Community Elementary School's recent National Reading Month contest was Ryan Witherow, whose total of 57 books read led both Ms. Rose Raspberry's first-grade class and the entire school. The second- and third-place winners, Lonnie McCollum and Monica Watson, were from Mrs. Carol Gursky's fourth-grade class. Also among the top readers were Jeffery Clay, Shawna Peters, and Crystal Foust.

On April 18, 1994, these six students were rewarded with a special treat when a white limousine transported them, along with Principal Harold Connon, to a local McDonald's restaurant (located at 9777 Wayne Road), where they were allowed to order anything they wanted from the menu. When the children were finished eating, Connon had the limo's chauffeur drive by each of the student's homes so that their families and friends could see them. The limo service was paid for by the Barth PTC.

The students also received reading certificates, good for a future meal, from Ms. Judy Bowers of McDonald's. In addition, McDonald's awarded reading certificates to all students who met their



Barth principal Harold Connon (right) and top readers from the School's National Reading Month contest.

teacher's reading goal for the contest. The Barth PTC also gave each child a paperback book, and Ms. Cheryl Smith gave them a coupon for a free dessert at

Hardee's restaurant.

Barth students and staff thank McDonald's, the Barth PTC, and Hardee's for their support. □

Potholes Cost Drivers Plenty

Potholes – those round craters whose depth and sharp edges play havoc with your car's tires, steering, and shock absorbers – are popping out all over Michigan's roads and highways – including those in Romulus.

"The unusually severe freeze-and-thaw cycle of the last few weeks is causing roads to deteriorate," says Jerry Basch, AAA Michigan Community Safety Services manager.

What causes potholes? They begin after snow or rain seeps into cracks in the road surface. The moisture freezes when temperatures drop below freezing, causing the ground to expand, rise, and push the pavement up. When cars and trucks drive over the hollow cavity, the surface cracks and falls into the hollow space. Voila, a pothole.

Basch gives this advice to drivers: "Keep your eyes on the road and watch out for potholes. Slow down and try to steer around them as much as possible without endangering traffic in adjacent lanes."

But when roads are severely damaged – as are many in Romulus – such evasive action becomes difficult, if not impossible. This can result in significant damage to vehicles. In fact, potholes may cost the average American driver more than \$100 a year in wasted gasoline, vehicle repairs (such as replacing

shock absorbers, blown tires, and broken windshields), and even body work, Basch says.

State and county crews are working to patch and repair roads and highways as potholes appear – but, just as at local levels, a shortage of money means that not all roads can be kept in top condition. The Michigan Department of Transportation has budgeted \$13 million for fiscal year 1993–1994 to repair roadway surfaces, with much of that money going for pothole repair. And the Wayne County Road Commission is spending between \$25,000 and \$30,000 a day for pothole repair, with 10 crews repairing about 2,000 potholes a day with 40 tons of patching material, according to Earl Ollila, Wayne County road maintenance engineer. (To report a Wayne County pothole that's hazardous to public travel, call 942-9920.)

In the meantime, there are things that motorists can do to minimize the damage done to their cars by potholes.

"Be sure to take your car in for a checkup if steering, ride, tire, or noise problems appear," says Basch. "Keep your tires properly inflated, and steering and suspension components in good condition. Especially critical are the shock absorbers or struts, which prevent excessive rebound or bottoming out on severe bumps." □

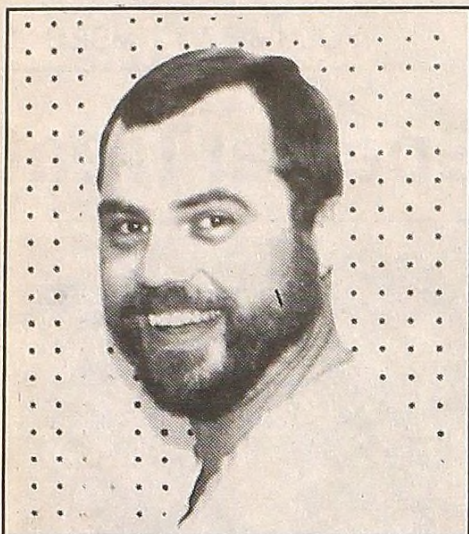
Romulus High School Students Work To SAVE the Environment

Students at Romulus High School have started an environmental group called SAVE (Students Aware of Valuable Environment), according to Margaret Leduc, Emergency Management Director for the City of Romulus. The Group's members – Leduc, Jackie Estes, Kim Bolus, Johnathon Webb, Abby Hance, Staci Steffani, Darrick Studstill, Kelly Walczak, Andrea Walton, Melissa White, Karyn Brawley, Danielle Franklin, and Mary Kathryn Dugan – are working hard to make Romulus a better, more environmentally wise place.

The students are currently involved with beginning a paper-recycling program at the High School and the District's six elementaries. (Romulus Middle School already has an independent paper-recycling program.) Toward this effort, SAVE members have put together a brochure that describes what can be recycled and where to take recyclable items. For a copy of the SAVE brochure, please call Leduc at 941-8585. □

The Lighter Slice

Slow Down and Live – Part II



By Tom Shamanski

Well, campers, it's time for the second installment of Slow Down and Live. In case you've forgotten, it's just a bunch of "ifs" we might all do well to remember – or forget, depending upon the current phases of the moon and the construction on I-94. (As Part I was published in August 1992, I apologize for the tardiness of Part II.)

- If you wish to be "politically correct" at all times, you probably shouldn't say anything at all.
- If you're Dale Evans, you had best outlive your hubby, Roy Rogers, considering what happened to ol' Trigger.
- If you fancy yourself as a "major player," you just might have the mind of an adolescent minor.
- If your life-style is excessive, have a meal at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen – soon.
- If your life-style remains excessive, please put me in your Last Will and Testament – soon.
- If you were around when Al Kaline, Charlie "Paw Paw" Maxwell, and the like played ball for the Tigers, you likely know the difference between "class" and "cash," as well as "hero" and "zero."
- If you wonder why God gave us dogs, it may be because we all need a best friend – at least once in awhile – in addition to our "significant other."

- If you persist in smoking marijuana, your brain may one day be used to fill a "pothole."
- If you think that only the "new" country sound is tops, I'd like you to see George Jones sing "He Stopped Loving Her Today." Same's true with the late Patsy Cline's rendition of "Sweet Dreams (of You)."
- If, however, you think that bluegrass is tops, I'd like to see you.
- If you don't believe in miracles, how did you get here?
- If all the Elvis impersonators would give it up, you'd have The Silence of the Shams.
- If you think that Grace is Amazing, you've come a long way, baby.
- If you've been bonding with goldfish lately, don't worry about it – just keep the water fresh.
- If you've been told that you look like you should be driving a 1968 Dodge Monaco, try getting a new hairstyle ... or life.
- If you're Still Crazy After All These Years, perhaps it's now time to venture across the Bridge Over (Your Most) Troubled Water.
- If you're worried that the Age of Information is leading us into the Cage of Information, you can rest assured – you're not alone.
- If you think that the Amish are on the right track in shunning the outside world, you can rest assured – you're not alone.
- If you consider the recent increase in governmental and industrial fraud, you'll see that The Crimes They Are A'Changin'.
- If you're eagerly awaiting Roseanne Arnold's next startling revelation, don't forget – the Easter Bunny will be here soon, too.
- If Romulus allows gambling casinos within its borders, it's rumored that the Motown group, The Temptations, will land an eternal gig here.
- ... And, as before, remember that the traffic signs reading "Slow down and live" also refer to fast foods. □

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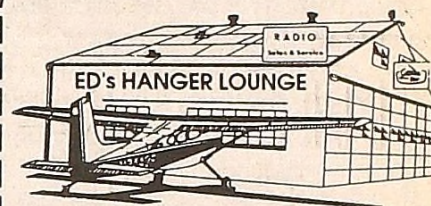
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Legislative Update

For the Week of April 11, 1994

By State Representative Greg Pitoniak Measure Would Diminish Teachers' Rights

A Democratic Educational Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness Task Force has been created to conduct public hearings regarding legislation affecting teachers. This task force was established because my caucus strongly believes that this legislation will severely damage the collective bargaining process now in place. This legislation would erode the ability of all school employees to negotiate on a level field with their employers by giving management an unfair advantage in the negotiations process. Under this bill, only employees would face penalties if negotiations failed, regardless of how unreasonable or unscrupulous management might be. (House Bill 5128)

Michigan's Restaurants Have Cleaner Air

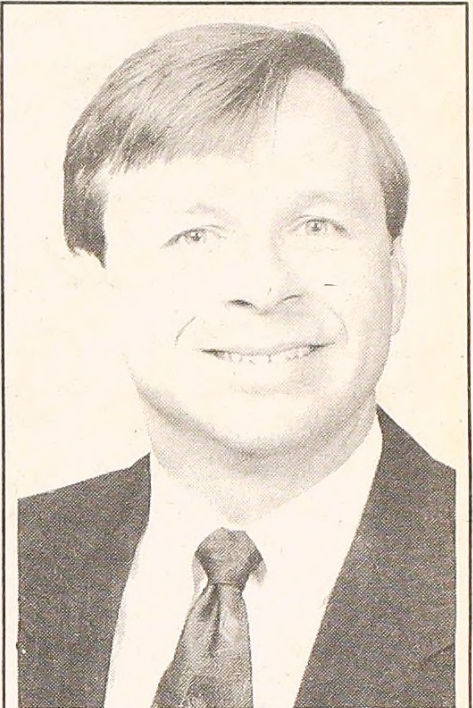
A new law which I have sponsored requires restaurants with 50 seats or more to reserve at least half of their seating for nonsmokers. Restaurants with fewer than 50 seats must reserve at least 25% of seats as nonsmoking. The law also covers seating in food courts of shopping malls and requires 25% non-smoking seating in food-service areas of private clubs. (Public Act 242 of 1993)

Defendants Must Prove That They Are Insane

Those hoping to plead insanity as a defense to criminal charges must prove that they are, indeed, insane. According to a new law that takes effect October 1, 1994, a prosecutor no longer has to disprove the insanity plea; the defendant has to prove it. This new law enables prosecutors to concentrate on the actions of the criminals without having to prove legal sanity as well. (Public Act 56 of 1994)

Burning Permits Banned In an Effort To Curb Spring Wildfires

Burn permits will not be issued from April 16 to May 15 in an effort to curb spring wildfires. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service and local units of



Representative Gregory Pitoniak

government, began this initiative last year to reduce spring wildfires. Historically, nearly half of all wildfires occur during the last two weeks of April and the first two weeks of May. Although recreational campfires do not require a burn permit, wildfire officials are asking everyone to refrain from burning all debris during this 30-day period.

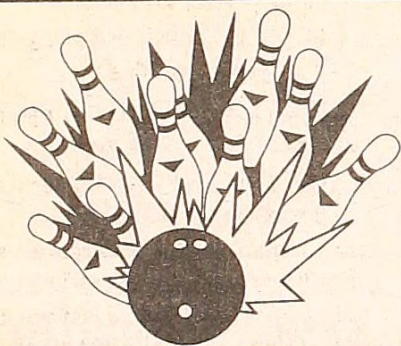
Volunteer Campground Hosts Needed for Michigan's State Parks

The Volunteer Campground Host Program, established several years ago by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), has openings at all of Michigan's 75 state park campgrounds. Volunteers are needed to greet other campers, provide visitor information, pick up litter, lead occasional nature hikes, and report emergencies to the DNR staff. In exchange, the volunteers may camp, free of charge, using their own privately owned camping equipment. Hosts are expected to work approximately 30 hours per week. Most assignments involve a four-week minimum commitment. Interested volunteers should contact the State Park where they would like to stay or call the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division at (517) 335-3034.

Cigarette Traffickers, Beware!

The Department of Treasury has established a toll-free number (1-800-292-2824) to help identify and catch people trying to bring cigarettes into the State after May 1 to avoid the new, higher tax rate. The penalty for possession of more than two cartons of bootlegged cigarettes in a vehicle is confiscation of both the cigarettes and the vehicle in which they are transported.

(Editor's note: State Representative Gregory E. Pitoniak represents the 22nd District, which encompasses the cities of Romulus and Taylor. His "Legislative Update" column will be a regular feature in the upcoming issues of *The Romulus News*.) □



Romulus Lanes

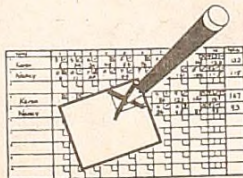
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Romulus Profile: Pearl Varner

By Tom Shamanski

Although a desire to live in the countryside has Pearl Varner residing in an outer region of Belleville, she is easily among the most staunch of Romulus supporters. The current president of the Romulus Historical Society was born at the former Romulus Hospital (a facility once located on Bibbins Street), grew up in Romulus, and graduated from Romulus High School. As she noted in a recent interview held at the Romulus Historical Museum, "I'm a Romulus person in all but address."

When the friendly, highly animated Varner was asked to discuss the origins of the Romulus Historical Society, she replied, "The Society actually came together in 1979, although the idea for it first came up the year before, when the State recognized the Merrill-Morris House as a historical site. From then until 1979, nothing much was done about forming the Society until former Mayor (William) Oakley said, 'Let's see if we can get this thing going.'"

Varner went on to explain that, soon after Oakley's declaration, a group of 12 to 15 people met at the Romulus Public Library and, after some pertinent discussion, a decision was made to form the Historical Society in order to preserve and protect the history of Romulus.

At its inception, said Varner, the Society consisted of 20 charter members. Today, there are over 50 members among the "active," "associate," and "supporting" members categories.

Crucial to the funding of the Society is a four-member "team" consisting of the Romulus Historical Commission (a five-member body created by Local ordinance in 1985), the City of Romulus, the Society itself, and the people of Romulus. Varner commented, particularly, on how gratifying the residents' support has been.

"The community has really donated a great deal of time, money, and material to us," she said. "We wouldn't have a Historical Society today if not for the Romulus residents."

When queried as to the Organization's most significant achievement, to date, Varner grinned and replied, "You're sitting in it! Actually, the Museum wasn't an early goal of the Society, but when we discovered that an old building, scheduled to be torn down in 1984, was originally a one-room schoolhouse, we decided to try to save it – and, in the end, we did."

The structure was soon donated to the City by then-owners Howard and Janice Overmyer, and then moved to City-owned property at 11120 Hunt. Following extensive renovation work on the building, the newly created Museum first opened its doors in September 1991.

The Romulus Historical Museum is, as Varner put it, "City owned and Society

operated" – an arrangement that has proven most satisfactory because of excellent cooperation between the two bodies. The Museum counts approximately 30 charter donors, including the Romulus City Council, community-service organizations, area business establishments, and various individuals and families, among others.

The Museum's display area covers almost 700 square feet and is located in the schoolhouse proper, said Varner, who went on to explain that an addition at the back of the building houses a kitchen, office, and handicapped-access restroom.

Varner noted that anywhere from five to 18 people will visit the Museum during its regular open hours of 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays; however, when the Museum is open in conjunction with other community events (Heritage Day celebrations, various dedications, etc.), as many as 600 visitors will pass through its portals over the course of a day.

"Other events take place in the Romulus Historic Park (located next to the Museum)," said Varner. "For instance, the Romulus Arts Council holds its arts and crafts show in the Park each September, and also sponsored three live-music concerts there this past summer. In addition, the Community United Methodist Church holds a service in the Park on the first Sunday in August each year.

"Other groups can get permits to use the Park through the Recreation Department," she added.

Varner then noted that on Sunday, May 12, the Historical Society and the City of Romulus will host "Heritage Days 1994" at the Romulus Historic Park. The affair, which will take place from 1 to 4 p.m., will feature a display of Romulus High School graduation photos from 1916 to the 1970s, as well as old Romulus High School yearbooks, class sweaters, and other memorabilia. The day will conclude with a potluck picnic to be held at the Park beginning at 4:30 p.m.

* * *

Under Varner's enthusiastic supervision, two major projects now loom on the Society's horizon. Both involve the relocation of historical houses to an area across the street from the Museum and Park. The entire expanse – which will then consist of three structures and the Park – will then become, said Varner, a "historical complex."

The first move – likely to occur by summer's end – will involve the recently donated Samuel R. Kingsley, Sr., home, presently located at 37424 Huron River Drive. The second structure scheduled for relocation is the Peter C. Bird home at the intersection of Grant and Wayne roads, which Varner described as "a large, brick home that has already been designated as a local historical site, and potentially qualifies to be listed on the National Registry of Historical Places."



Virgil and Pearl Varner

However, as the house is currently owned by Wayne County and, further, sits within the confines of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Varner speculates that it will take a long period of time to get it moved.

"Right now," she said, "the State and Federal governments are involved in this, as well as Wayne County, the City, and the Society. I'm sure it will eventually be moved, although it may take several years. But it will never be torn down, as far as I can tell."

* * *

Next December, Varner and her husband Virgil will celebrate their thirtieth wedding anniversary. Virgil, a self-employed electrical contractor, has also notched 18 years as an electrician with General Motors' Powertrain Division. Varner, a Michigan State University graduate with a degree in biological science, is likewise self-employed; working as a private tutor, she usually teaches the subjects of math and science.

Twenty-four-year-old Darius is the eldest of the Varners' two sons. Presently a senior at Eastern Michigan University (EMU), he will graduate next year with a degree in construction management.

Lloyd, at 20 years of age, also attends EMU. Currently in his junior year, Lloyd has successfully met all the criteria necessary to be accepted into the University's occupational therapy program, and hopes to enter the field upon graduating.

When not busy tutoring or attending to her Historical Society duties, Varner

loves being in the outdoors. She is not, she said, a "city person."

Additionally, Varner spends time working on her family's genealogy – and, for the sake of her sons, she does research on Virgil's family, too. This investigation into "family roots" has found the Varners traveling to West Virginia, Ohio, and the far reaches of Michigan.

"I think our next destination will be New York State; then, perhaps, Pennsylvania," she said. "Actually, what you find in one state can lead you to another."

Varner then mentioned that her family's association with Romulus dates back to 1854, when her ancestors, the Morris family, first settled in the same area in which her parents live today.

* * *

As the interview slowly became history, Varner was asked why she so obviously delights in being associated with the Romulus Historical Society.

"First of all," she replied, "I like meeting the people and providing enjoyment for them. I also like the fact that going to the Museum, or to any of our other related events, is a family-oriented activity that everyone can participate in."

Indeed, Varner appears to be well on her way to success in her quest to unearth the long, rich history of Romulus and, furthermore, display that history to the community for its education and enjoyment. For her past accomplishments and her future plans on their behalf, the residents of Romulus are surely grateful to Pearl Varner, a very special woman. □

Letter to the Editor

Senior Center's Free Tax-help Program Was a Big Success, Says Staff Member

To the Editor:

The 1994 tax season has come to an end.

As Local Coordinator for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Tax Aide Program, I would like to express my gratitude to our volunteers, Joyce Schumacher, Leonard Smarch, and William Wallen. Thanks, also, to James Napiorkowski, Romulus City Treasurer, for his assistance to us as well as to the general public. Their dedication was invaluable to the success of the program.

The Tax Aide Program was very ben-

eficial in its first year of service to the senior citizens of Romulus. More than 102 seniors were assisted with State and Federal income-tax forms. We also discovered that many seniors were unaware of their eligibility for homestead and heating credits, and were able to help them apply for the 1994 credits as well as credits for the previous four years.

I am looking forward to serving even greater numbers of older adults with this free service in 1995.

Yours truly,

Barbara Schultz

Romulus Senior Center □

Tora, Tora, Tora

Percy Lilly's comments, at last week's meeting, really started me thinking.

He spoke of General Yamamoto standing on the deck of a Japanese aircraft carrier during the launching of the surprise attack of Pearl Harbor.

The general is shown expressing concern that the attack would wake a sleeping giant, who would prove a worthy opponent.

Percy went on to assert to Council that it would awaken its own sleeping giant if it failed to stay the course and continue the fight against Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS).

I'm confused by all of this. Who represents whom, and who's for what?

Council started this lawsuit based, in part, on pressure from RECAP.

Council has now allocated over \$240,000 on the lawsuit and it still isn't settled.

Now RECAP appears to be threatening Council that it better keep up the fight.

It says there is a sleeping giant out there who will raise up if Council considers any other solution to this problem.

Well I don't think so, and neither does anyone I know.

I don't think there is any sleeping giant out here. We're simply tired of this whole business. And the more money we spend on it the more concerned we become.

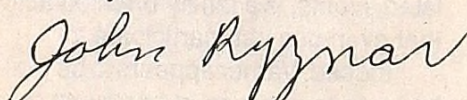
Tora, Tora, Tora means Tiger, Tiger, Tiger; the code that was to be used for a successful attack on Pearl Harbor.

I think this is just about the right expression for Lilly and RECAP.

I think they've launched their own sneak attack on the rest of Romulus. They have forced the rest of this city to grab a tiger by the tail. To put itself in a lose/lose situation. They are forcing this city to carry on their own personal cause at a great expense to everyone else.

Well, I hope Council sees through all of this at some point. There's no sleeping giant, just us residents. And we want this behind us, now. It's time to get back to the business of this city. Please start thinking about the other 22,000 residents and what they want.

Sincerely,



John Ryznar

Paid Notice

April 20, 1994

Dear Mr. R. P. Lilly,

During the "discussion" portion of the April 11, 1994 meeting of the Romulus City Council, you stated that VOTES (Voice of Taxpayers for Efficient Spending), a Local organization of which I am the chairperson, is perpetrating "the mother of all hoaxes" against the people of Romulus.

In support of this statement, you read a letter that I wrote to the Detroit Police and Firemen's Pension Fund which described the tremendous response that VOTES has received to its recent mailing campaign intended to sample residents' feelings with regard to the City of Romulus lawsuit against Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc. (EDS) and its already constructed deep-injection disposal well. The letter also stated our contention - which is supported by both the residents' response and two independently conducted surveys - that proponents of the well lawsuit are a vocal minority, and asked Pension Fund members to accept our letter as evidence that a majority of Romulus citizens wish to see this lawsuit settled to the benefit of all.

When you finished reading the VOTES letter, you called its contents a "farce" and dismissed what we called a tremendous response with your sarcastic comment, "I understand they got back almost a hundred cards; I have to say that is a *tremendous* response." Further, you stated that most of the people who returned our cards were probably "legitimately concerned about taxpayers' money being spent," but claimed "that didn't mean they were for this project."

Unfortunately, Mr. Lilly, your erroneous statements are just another example of how RECAP and other well opponents have failed to get the facts concerning this issue, and how your unsubstantiated rumors have contributed to this town being torn apart by dissension.

As of April 20, 1994, VOTES has received the signatures of 420 people who agree that the City is wasting money in its lawsuit against EDS, while only 22 in support of the suit have been received (24 unsigned cards were not counted). These are not "phantom signatures" that have been widely discussed but never disclosed to authorities; in fact, copies of them have been sent to the Mayor and all seven City Councilmen. Where you got the number of "almost 100" I have no idea, but I do know that it wouldn't have required much effort on your part to have learned the true figure. An article which appeared on the front page of the March 24, 1994 edition of *The Romulus News* contained a direct quote from me which stated that 338 replies had been received as of that date. But even if you can't be bothered to read the Local papers, you could have called me. You've known my husband George for 40 years and known me for the 18 years that I have been married to him; during all that time, our phone number (942-0002) has never changed, and we have never refused to speak to you. I wonder why you never called to make sure that what you "understood" was a true fact.

Further, Mr. Lilly, unless you believe that the people of Romulus don't know how to read and make up their own minds, I find it difficult to understand how you can assert that those who signed these cards are only against wasting money in general, not the lawsuit in particular. The statement which these 420 people have supported was unmistakably clear: "I support Councilman Bergeron's call for the City Council to settle this dispute directly with EDS. I agree that it is important for Romulus to guarantee residents that the City will have an active role in monitoring the facility and that EDS lives up to its commitment to be a responsible corporate citizen. Continuing the current lawsuit is not only expensive and wasteful, but risks the loss of local control along with the royalty and other benefits which EDS has offered."

It's understandable, Mr. Lilly, that you are not really as in touch with the feelings of Romulus residents as you think you are; after all, you do not, yourself, reside in our community. In fact, I feel very strongly about the fact that such a highly controversial issue for the City of Romulus is being debated by a New Boston resident and a Canadian citizen, neither of whom are able to vote here.

I think it's more than obvious that the majority of Romulus citizens are strongly against this lawsuit that has so far cost the taxpayers of this city more than \$200,000.

Sincerely,

Dolores Witzgall
Romulus

P.S. This notice was not paid for by some corporate PR firm, Mr. Lilly. I paid for it myself, out of my own pocket, because it's something I strongly believe in. It's too bad that others don't stick to spending their own money, instead of public taxdollars, to grind their own axes.

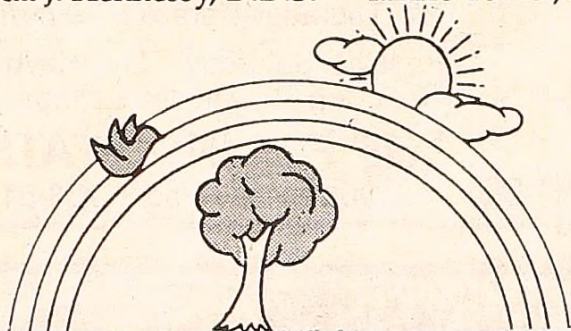
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Community Calendar

- **Las Vegas Night** – Try your luck at the Romulus Rotary Club's Las Vegas Night, set for Thursday, April 28, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Romulus Progressive Club (11580 Ozga Road). Admission is only \$5; cash bar and food will be available.
- **50/50 BINGO! Marathon** – BINGO! lovers can indulge in up to 14 hours of their favorite game when the St. Aloysius Parents' Club hosts a 50/50 BINGO! Marathon at the St. Aloysius School Hall (37200 Neville, Romulus) on Friday, April 22, from 6 to 11:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 23, from 3 to 11:30 p.m. Cards are two for a quarter; refreshments and light snacks also will be available.
- **Pippin** – The Huron Civic Theatre's next production, *Pippin*, showcases wars, revolutions, affairs, and the placid side of marriage. Set in the not-so-Holy Roman Empire, *Pippin* tells the story of Charlemagne's son, who goes to extraordinary means to seek fulfillment in life. The leading player, acting as commentator and master of ceremonies, weaves Pippin's story through a series of vaudeville-like sketches with a touch of magic, minstrel show, and fast-paced dance routines. This sexy, sinfully funny musical hit runs at the Huron Civic Theatre (32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston) on April 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, and May 1, with Friday and Saturday performances beginning at 8 p.m., and Sunday matinees starting at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults; \$8 for senior citizens/students. Group rates are available. For tickets or information, call 782-5380. (Note: *Pippin* is recommended for a mature audience – PG-13.)
- **Tomfoolery Follies** – The Huron Civic Theatre's Youth Theatre Workshop students (ages six to 15) will take to the stage on Saturday, May 14, and Sunday, May 15, for two matinee performances of *Tomfoolery Follies*, an original work created by Workshop director Belinda Sidebottom. Tickets for the 3 p.m. performances are \$3; children age five and under get in free. For more information, call 782-5380.
- **Healthy Gourmet Cooking Series Benefits DIC** – Learn to prepare delicious, healthy gourmet cuisine from the experts! Premier chefs from metro Detroit area restaurants (Ristorante di Modesta, Morels, Excalibur, and the 4th Street Bakery) will demonstrate their famous recipes, altered to fit into a healthier life-style, at the Weight Watchers 3rd Annual Healthy Gourmet Cooking Series, to be held Tuesday, May 17, and Tuesday, May 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Weight Watchers Test Kitchen (28555 Orchard Lake Road, between 12 and 13 Mile roads, in Farmington Hills). Admission is \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door; a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Detroit Institute for Children, a nonprofit organization which provides care for disabled children. For tickets or more information, call (800) 487-4777, ext. 294.
- **"How To Communicate with and Discipline Your Kids"** – On Tuesday, May 3, Romulus Community Schools psychologist Sharon Wielfaert will talk with Romulus parents about effective ways to communicate with and discipline children. This free seminar – which will focus on problem and behavior ownership, developmental stages of teen personalities, and everyday problem-solving techniques, among other subjects – will be held in the media center at Romulus High School (9650 South Wayne Road) at 7 p.m. No preregistration is required.
- **Friends of Ecorse Creek** – The Friends of Ecorse Creek will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, at Allen Park City Hall (16850 Southfield Road) to discuss sites to be selected for cleanup. Volunteers are needed for this worthwhile project, so please plan to attend.

To place information in the Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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Twister Threat Increases with Arrival of Warm Weather

By Margaret Leduc, Emergency Management Director for the City of Romulus

Last year was a very quiet year for severe weather in Michigan. Although there were a total of 11 tornadoes reported here in 1993, no one was killed as a result. Those tornadoes, however, destroyed or damaged property valued at approximately \$1 million.

Tornadoes generally develop from severe thunderstorms. Although not all severe thunderstorms spawn tornadoes, twisters are more likely to occur when there is unseasonably warm and humid air near the earth's surface and cold air at the middle atmospheric levels, with strong upper-level jet-stream winds. In Michigan, this clash of air masses is more likely to occur in the spring and in the southern, lower part of the State.

Annually, Michigan experiences an average of 16 tornadoes. Since 1950, 237 persons have been killed by twisters here. Tornadoes can hit any time of the day or night in almost any month of the year. Most, however, occur in April, May, June, and July during the late afternoon and early evening hours, generally between 3 and 7 p.m. Tornadoes develop and move rapidly, often with little notice.

Tornado Facts

What is a tornado watch?

A tornado/severe thunderstorm watch is issued whenever conditions exist for severe weather to develop. Watches are usually for large areas about two-thirds the size of lower Michigan, and are usually two to six hours long. Watches give you time to plan and prepare. Persons in or near a watch area should place small objects, which could become deadly missiles, inside.

What is a tornado warning?

A tornado/severe weather warning is issued by the local Weather Service office whenever a tornado or severe thunderstorm has actually been sighted or strongly indicated by radar. Warnings are for smaller areas, such as a portion of a county, and are usually 30 minutes to one hour in length. You must act immediately when you first hear the warning. If the severe weather is reported for an area near you, seek shelter immediately.

Tornado Safety Tips

Preparing for a tornado

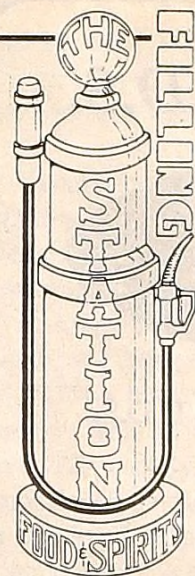
- Have emergency supplies on hand during a tornado season.
- Keep a battery-operated radio, a flashlight, and a supply of fresh batteries in a convenient place.
- Know the location of designated shelter areas in public facilities. Most schools, public buildings, and shopping centers have such areas.
- Make an inventory of household furnishings and other possessions. Supplement the written inventory with photographs of each room. Keep inventories and records in a safe deposit box or some other safe place away from the premises.
- Plan ahead. Be sure that everyone in your household knows, in advance, where to go and what to do in case of a tornado warning.

What to do when a tornado threatens

- Stay away from doors, windows, and outside walls. Protect your head.
- In homes and small buildings, go to the basement or to an interior part on the lowest level. Get under something sturdy.
- In schools, hospitals, and public places, move to designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on the lowest floors are best.
- In mobile homes or vehicles, leave them and go to the nearest shelter. If there isn't shelter close by, lie in the nearest ditch and shield your head with your arms.

After a tornado

- Inspect your property, including your motor vehicles, for damage. Check for electrical problems and gas leaks, and report any to the power company at once. If you have damage, contact your agent.
- Stay out of damaged buildings until you are sure that they are safe and will not collapse.
- Secure your property from further damage or theft.
- Use only approved or chlorinated supplies of drinking water.
- Check your food supplies. Some food may contain particles of glass or other debris. □



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Karen Paciero, Youth Assistance Coordinator

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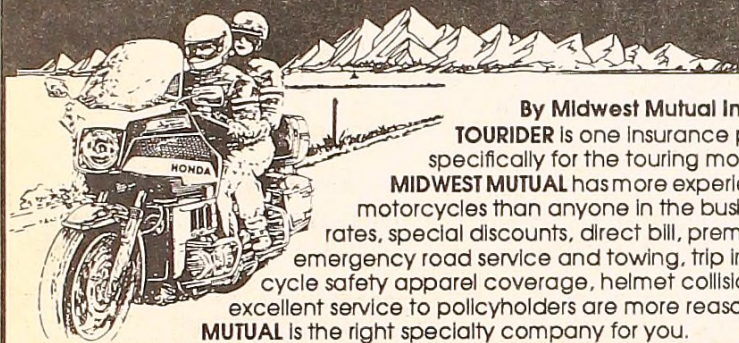
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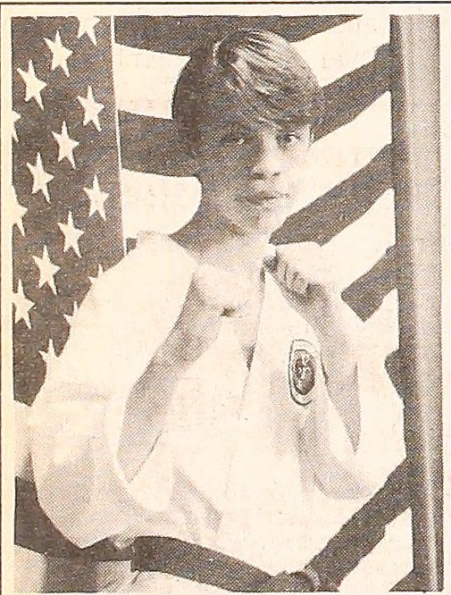
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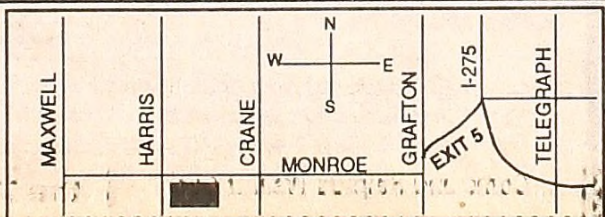
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Romulus Rotary's Chili Cook-off Was Hot Stuff

Editor's note: Winner of the adult category's hot division, Dr. Terrel LeCesne, is not pictured. Romulus Rotary President Steve Trahey appears in all pictures. Photos by Michael A. Prybyla.



Winner in the adult category's mild division was Paula Smith.



Winner of the student category's mild division was the Class of 1996 (cooks: Jeremy Davidson and Shaun Weinstock).



Winner of the student category's hot division was the Class of 1997 (cooks: Kena Henley and Deanda Harper).

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Audry Moomaw, Manager of the Romulus Tower; Marilyn Hoffer, Senior Citizens Coordinator for the City of Romulus; and Barbara Schultz, Romulus Senior Center staff member, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

Happy Birthday!

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday to those of my Romulus Tower neighbors born in April: Pauline Bragenzer, Mary Casto, Clara Drogs, Helen George, Barbara Gillingham, Irene Holliday, Jane Kobylski, Sally Mulka, Helen Skelton, and Stella Wiska.

Pinochle Tournament

If pinochle is the name of your game, and you enjoy lighthearted competition, you'll want to register for the Romulus Senior Center's upcoming Pinochle Tournament, to be held at the Center (located at 36515 Bibbins) on Thursday, April 28, at 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$1 per person (register singly or in pairs); deadline for registration is Tuesday, April 26.

Legal Aid

Wayne County residents who are at least 60 years old can receive free legal assistance in most civil matters at the Legal Aid clinic to be held at the Romulus Senior Center (located at 36515 Bibbins) on Wednesday, May 4. No appointment is necessary; senior citizens are seen on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning at 9:30 a.m. (Everyone signed in by 10:30 a.m. will be seen.)

Home-bound seniors who wish to receive Legal Aid are advised to call (313) 964-4700 between 1 and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Mother's Day Brunch

The Romulus Senior Center will be hosting a special Mother's Day Brunch on Friday, May 13. Watch for details in the next issue of "the little paper."

Friday Trips

For a transportation fee of \$1.50, Romulus seniors can ride the Center's Senior Van on Friday, April 29, to see the Wayne Ice Show (admission: \$2.50), and/or on Friday, May 6, for a day of shopping at Southland Mall. Sign up at the Center (located at 36515 Bibbins) if you're interested. (Note: Trips, limited to 14 passengers, are open on a first-come, first-served basis. You must pay your transportation fee at the time of sign-up to reserve your seat.)

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about this or other scheduled trips planned by the Romulus Senior Center may contact Marilyn Hoffer: 942-6852.

• **African Lion Safari**— You don't have to travel to another continent to experience the thrills of safari! Seniors can travel to Cambridge, Ontario, for an African Lion Safari on Friday, July 15, and still be home in time to sleep in

their own bed (departure time: 5:30 a.m.; return time: 8:45 p.m.). The \$59 cost of the trip includes round-trip motorcoach transportation, a barbecue chicken lunch, and admission to the safari (featuring an "African Queen" boat cruise, elephant bathing, a "birds of prey" demonstration, the Parrot Paradise show, and the "Nature Boy" scenic railway). This trip is filling up quickly, so be sure to sign up right away if you're interested.

Free Blood-pressure Screening

Romulus seniors can have their blood pressure checked by Community Emergency Medical Service (CEMS), free of charge, at the Romulus Senior Center (located at 36515 Bibbins) on the first Monday of every month from 1 to 2 p.m. The next screening will be on May 2. For further information, please call 942-6852.

Personal Transportation Service

The Romulus Senior Center has developed a personalized transportation program for senior citizens who have no other vehicle available to them.

The program, which operates every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., will pick up seniors from their home and take them to a host of specialized services in the downtown Romulus business district. Once their business is concluded, the seniors will be transported back home. Cost for the service is \$1 per person.

"The program is designed to assist those individuals who don't have transportation," said Marilyn Hoffer, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator. "We desire to help people reach their bank, visit the doctor, go to the post office, do some shopping, or even call at City Hall."

In addition, the program will encourage seniors to stop off at the Senior Center to participate in the Wayne County Nutritional Services Hot Lunch program.

Those seniors interested in taking part in the program need to reserve their ride in advance by calling 942-6852.

Weekly Programs at the Center

Chances are, you'll find at least one of your favorite hobbies among these regular events at the Romulus Senior Center: ceramics (Mondays at 1 and 6 p.m.); Club #1 meetings (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.); pinochle (Tuesdays at 1 p.m.); BINGO! (Wednesdays at 1 p.m.); knitting, crocheting, and canvas needlepoint (Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.); euchre (Thursdays at 1 p.m.); and quilting (Thursdays at 7 p.m.). For more information, call the Center (942-6852).

Hot Lunch

For only \$1.50, Romulus seniors (age 60 and over) can enjoy a hot lunch at the Romulus Senior Center every weekday at 11:30 a.m. Call Pat (942-6852) at least 24 hours in advance for your reservation.

For more information on getting home-delivered meals for seniors, please call 1-800-851-1454. □

- CHURCH DIRECTORY -

ASSEMBLY OF GOD - 36572 Goddard / 941-4014 / Rev. James R. O'Guin, Pastor / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m. / Tuesday Evening Service - 7 p.m. / Thursday Youth Night - 7 p.m.

BALL ROAD TABERNACLE - 7007 Ball Rd. / 722-9638

BELLEVILLE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 11900 Belleville Rd. / Belleville / 697-8687 / Rev. Deborah Vanleuven Kerr, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. / Craft Circle - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. / Women's Association Meeting - 2nd Tuesday of some months - 7:30 p.m.

BETHANY APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH - 34584 Beverly Rd. / 729-4240 / Elder Reginald Williams, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11:15 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 7:30 p.m.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH - 30055 Ecorse Rd. / 728-1845

BETHANY CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 35737 Vinewood / 326-0810 / Robert L. Gordon, Pastor / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m.

BEVERLY HOUSE OF GOD CHURCH - 34156 Beverly Rd. / 729-6440 / Dr. Lovell Wooden, Sr., Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 7:30 p.m. / Thursday Prayer Service - 12 p.m. / Thursday Choir Rehearsal - 6 p.m. / Thursday Bible Study - 7:30 p.m. / Free Transportation - Call 729-6440

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 11338 Ozga Rd. / 941-0236 / Marvin Hawbaker, Pastor / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Adult Bible Study - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST - 9426 S. Wayne Rd. / Office: 721-2585 / Phil Morr, Evangelist / Sunday Bible Study - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. / Wednesday Evening Worship - 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY - 7201 Kempa St. / 729-2283

CHURCH OF GOD-ROMULUS - 8770 S. Wayne Rd. / 729-4884 / Parsonage: 729-7234 / Rev. Douglas M. Bishop, Pastor / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Children's Church - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m. / Family Training Service - Wednesday, 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS MIRACLE TEMPLE - 36949 Goddard / 941-6070

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH - 6200 Fourth St. / 729-0630 / 419-727-0631 / Rev. Bennie Oliphant, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 11160 Olive St. / 941-3474 / J.D. Landis, Pastor / 941-0736 / Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m.

FAITH HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH - Oakbrooke Villa Club House / 30251 Elm Street (1 Block South of Eureka) / Rev. Earl W. Ellison, Sr., Pastor / 941-4855 or 721-8489 / Sunday School - 10:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 a.m.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD - 870 Savage Rd. / Belleville / 699-6700 / Kenneth W. Miller, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. - Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. / Wednesday Family Night - 7 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 11412 Delano St. / 941-0225

FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH - 19101 Inkster Rd. / Brownstown / 782-1220 / Sunday Morning Worship - 10 a.m. / Adult Bible Study and Sunday School - 11:30 a.m. / Nursery available / Active Drama Team

MARTIN TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST - 6566 S. Wayne Rd. / 326-1270 / Elder Edward Thomas, Jr., Pastor / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Worship - 12:00 p.m. / Sunday Evening Y.P.W.W. - 6:30 p.m. / Prayer and Bible Study - Tuesday, 7 p.m. / Friday Worship Service - 7 p.m.

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH - 35565 Beverly Rd. / 729-2460 / James Thompson, Pastor / 531-1285 / Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 6:30 p.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 7 p.m.

PARKS MEMORIAL A.M.E. - 11547 Grover St. / 941-0771 / Rev. Jeffery Baker, Pastor / Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 6 p.m.

PENTECOSTAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 35625 Vinewood St. / 728-1390 / Rev. Arthur C. Willis, Pastor / 548-5954 / Sunday School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 a.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

ROMULUS FREWILL BAPTIST CHURCH - 9900 Tobine / 941-8810

ROMULUS WESLEYAN CHURCH - 37300 Goddard Rd. (5 Points) / 941-1511 / Rev. Donald McClellan, Pastor / 941-4167 / Enrichment Hour - 9:45 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. / Sunday Evening Celebration - 6 p.m. / Family Night - Wednesday, 7 p.m.

SAINT ALOYSIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH - 11280 Ozga Rd. / 941-5056 / Daily Mass - 9 a.m. / Weekend Masses: Saturday - 6 p.m.; Sunday - 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m. / Holy Day Masses: Vigil Mass (evening prior to Holy Day) - 7 p.m.; Holy Days - 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 7 p.m. / Confession: Saturday - 4:30 - 5 p.m.

SAINT CITY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST - 7335 Washington / 595-0629 / Pastor: Elder James Lee Whitehead / Sunday School - 9:30 p.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 7 p.m. / Sunday Evening Radio Broadcast on WMUZ-FM 103.5 at 7:30 p.m. / Tuesday Evening Bible Study & Youth Night - 7 p.m. / Choir Rehearsal - Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. / Friday Evening Family Night - 7 p.m.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - 19109 Craig (Post Office 274), New Boston / Robert Allmann, Pastor / Sunday School & Bible Class - 9 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 10 a.m. / Wednesday Worship - 7:30 p.m. / Attended Nursery

SALVATION ARMY - 33750 Goddard Rd. / 941-5100

SECOND MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 11242 Grover St. / 941-0330

STAR OF BETHLEHEM SPIRITUAL TEMPLE - 35143 Beverly Rd. / 326-4777

UNION GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH - 6312 Wayne Rd. / 721-5052

WAYNECOURSE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7066 Wayncourse / 722-0454 / Earl Truss, Minister / 326-0918 / James Motley, Associate Minister: 561-3108 / Sunday Bible School - 10 a.m. / Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m. / Sunday Evening Worship - 6 p.m. / Wednesday Bible Study - 7 p.m.

If you would like to have your church listed in the church directory (there is no charge), or, if you have changes or additions in church information, please send it to:

The Romulus News Church Directory
Post Office Box 74038 • Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____

Birthdate _____ Time _____

Weight _____ Length _____

Birthplace _____

Parents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Paternal Grandparents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Name _____

City _____ State _____

Bride's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Groom's Parents _____

City _____ State _____

Bridesmaids _____

Groomsmen _____

Date of Engagement _____

Date of Wedding _____

Place _____

City _____ State _____

Reception _____

City _____ State _____

Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Obituaries

William J. Kolo

William J. Kolo of Romulus, Michigan, died on Saturday, April 16, 1994. He was 57 years old.

William was born in Detroit, Michigan, on August 11, 1936, and graduated from Fordson High School in 1953. He and his wife, Marilyn J. Grube, were married in his native town on April 24, 1965. William was employed as a printer, and was active in the Dearborn Woods & Water Sportsmen Club as well as Detroit's Holy Cross Council and Knights of Columbus groups.

Surviving William are his wife; two sons, William J. Kolo II and Michael A. Kolo (both of Romulus, MI); and two brothers, Andrew C. Kolo (Raber, MI) and Richard W. Kolo (Dearborn, MI).

Funeral services were held on Thursday, April 21, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus, MI), with Father Michael Malawy officiating.

Burial was at North Raber Cemetery (Raber, MI).

Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI).

Carl W. Nowitzke

Carl W. Nowitzke of Romulus, Michigan, died on Friday, April 8, 1994, at the age of 73.

Carl, who had worked as an inspector for McCord Gasket Company, was born in Huron Township, Michigan, on September 4, 1920. He and his wife, Wilma M. Ferris, were married on March 24, 1944.

Carl is survived by his wife; four sons, Gerald W. Nowitzke (Salem, IL), Richard C. Nowitzke (Romulus, MI), James D. Nowitzke (Romulus, MI), and Kenneth K. Nowitzke (Canton Township, MI); four daughters, Ms. Sally A. Nowitzke (Romulus, MI), Mrs. Thomas (Lois A.) West (Belleville, MI), Mrs. Roger (Judith

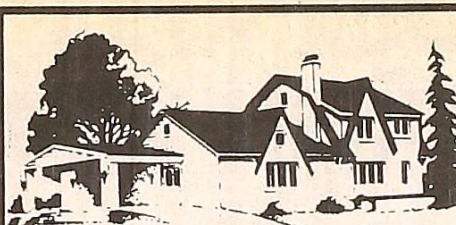
A.) Champlin (New Boston, MI), and Mrs. Lee (Karen S.) Smith (Live Oaks, FL); one brother, Lawson Nowitzke (Romulus, MI); one sister, Mrs. Marie Batyik (Carleton, MI); 18 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by daughter, Paulette Nowitzke on January 17, 1994.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, April 12, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Reverend J. D. Landis (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus, MI) officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock, MI).

Memorial tributes may be made to any charitable organization. □



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WILLIAM A. CRANE

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ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174
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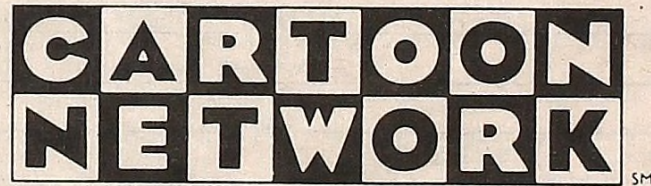
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